

REMARKS

Claims 137 and 138 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons noted in the official action. Rejected claim 137 is suitably revised, by the above claim amendments, and the presently pending claims are now believed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the raised § 112, second paragraph, rejections and are now directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The entered claim amendments are directed solely at overcoming the raised indefiniteness rejections and are not directed at distinguishing the present invention from the art of record in this case.

Claims 119, 121, 123-125, 129, 132, 134, 161 and 163 are then rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Bellin et al. '996 while claims 101-109, 116-130, 132, 134, 135, 137, 138 and 160-164 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Bader '206. Further, claims 110-113 and 131 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bader '206 while claim 114 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bader '206 in view of Gusakov '459. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the raised anticipatory and obviousness rejections in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 115, 133 and 136 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In accordance with this indication, claims 115, 133 and 136 are appropriately revised, to be independent claims which include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). As such, newly entered independent claims 115, 133 and 136 are now believed to be allowable. As claims 102-113, 117, 118, 120-131, 135,

137, 138 and 160-164 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of these new independent claims, all of those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

With respect to withdrawn claims 139-159, all of those claims are now canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, from this application.

In view of the above claim amendments and claim cancellations, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn at this time. If the Examiner disagrees with the Applicant's view concerning the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection(s) or applicability of the Bellin et al. '996, Bader '206 and/or Gusakov '459 references, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the specific passage or passages, or the drawing or drawings, which contain the necessary teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure required by case law. As such teaching, suggestion and/or disclosure is not present in the applied references, the raised rejection should be withdrawn at this time. Alternatively, if the Examiner is relying on his/her expertise in this field, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter an affidavit substantiating the Examiner's position so that suitable contradictory evidence can be entered in this case by the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejections should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that

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end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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